

Madam Speaker,

Over the first four months of this year the new Democratic-led House approved key legislation that would move us in a new direction and allow us to better defend our nation and strengthen our military. Unfortunately, time and time again, the President has either vetoed our efforts, or has threatened a veto.

During our first 100 hours, we passed a bill implementing the recommendations of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission, including improvements in securing our ports, our border, and our infrastructure. The administration currently opposes this legislation.

This House also approved the Rail and Mass Transit Security Act, which requires the Homeland Security Department to develop plans to protect rail and mass transit. Despite strong bipartisan support here in the House, President Bush has threatened a veto.

Madam Speaker, protecting the homeland is not a partisan issue. This House approved both of these critical homeland security bills with the votes of both Democrats and Republicans. I would hope the President would stop being an obstructionist and instead support these important bills.